

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 69
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jerry Wayne Hopper of
Chester County, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of Mr. Jerry Wayne Hopper; and

WHEREAS, the honored son of the late Otis L. Hopper and the late Elsie Conner
Hopper Gray, Mr. Hopper was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who
worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities;
and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopper served with acumen and alacrity as a Forestry Technician with
the Tennessee Department of Agriculture for an admirable 28 years, in which position he
earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopper's dedication to his work was a blessing to his community and a
model for others; his unending labors were aimed at projects ranging from building roads to
fighting forest fires, as well as his yearly participation in the annual Christmas Parade as proud
escort to "Smokey the Bear"; and

WHEREAS, a revered member of the Cabo community, Mr. Hopper served the people of
Chester County and Tennessee in a multitude of capacities; in addition to his former
employment as a Deputy with the Chester County Sheriff's Department and his employment
with the State of Tennessee, Mr. Hopper served on the Election Commission and was an active
member of the Masons, Initiated February 8, 1968, Passed, and Raised on April 25, 1988, and
later served honorably as Master Mason; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Wayne Hopper was an active and devout member of the Stone
Hill Pentecostal Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his constancy of faith, Mr. Hopper was also deeply committed to, devoted to, and inspired by his adoring family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopper was blessed with the companionship of his eternal beloved, Emmadean Hatch Hopper, for 28 wonderful years, during which time he took much pleasure in her delicious cooking and in her constant love; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hopper was the proud father of Misti Michelle Hopper Elis and Mark Rowland, and father-in-law to Jeremy Ellis and Martha Rowland; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopper took great pleasure in his beautiful family; he deeply adored the “Light of his Life,” his “Michelle,” for whom his pride was unending; his devoted son, Mark Rowland, was also a faithful friend and partner with whom Mr. Hopper could share his interests in fishing and gardening; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopper’s granddaughter Braelyn Kiera Ellis, a magnificent joy to his heart, was much adored, and “Papa Jerry” never failed to sing her praises or express his love for his precious grandchild; and

WHEREAS, also reflecting Jerry Hopper’s generosity of heart and spirit, were “Pawpaw Jerry’s” outings with his “adopted” grandchildren, James and Andrew Graves of Jackson, Tennessee, as well as Mr. Hopper’s remarkable ability to share stories with those whose presence he graced with his warmth; and

WHEREAS, always appreciative of the blessings in his life, Mr. Hopper benefited from many devoted friends, and was grateful for his time spent with Judge Howard Bailey, now deceased, Billy Coatney, also deceased, Jonathan Kelly -- dear little neighbor friend, Aunt Oda Connor, and Aunt Polly Daily; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hopper leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jerry Wayne Hopper, friend, father, family man, and hero to many, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his dedication to the people of Chester County and Tennessee, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Jerry Wayne Hopper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.